



Volume 1, Issue 06

Ouranophantor

June 2018

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office:

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

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Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy

Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.

Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, June 3 -**
 - Graduation Sunday
 - End of School Pizza Party in Fellowship Hall
- **Wednesday, July 11—**
 - St. Basil Golf Outing at Odyssey Country Club (19110 S. Ridgeland Ave, Tinley Park IL)
- **Sunday, July 15—**
 - St. Basil Potluck Luncheon

We welcome new families to our parish!

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese. Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

Baptisms:

May 6, 2018
Magdalena Vasiliki daughter of
Kalliope & Jeff Osborne
Godparents: Vayoula & Peter Tourlis

May 12, 2018
Kassiani Antoinette daughter of
Dr. Christine & John Bishof
Godparent: Effie Jost

May 19, 2018
Chrysovalanto (Valentina) daughter of
Tiffany Ann & Demetrios Stavrianos
Godparents: Amalia & Peter Berchos

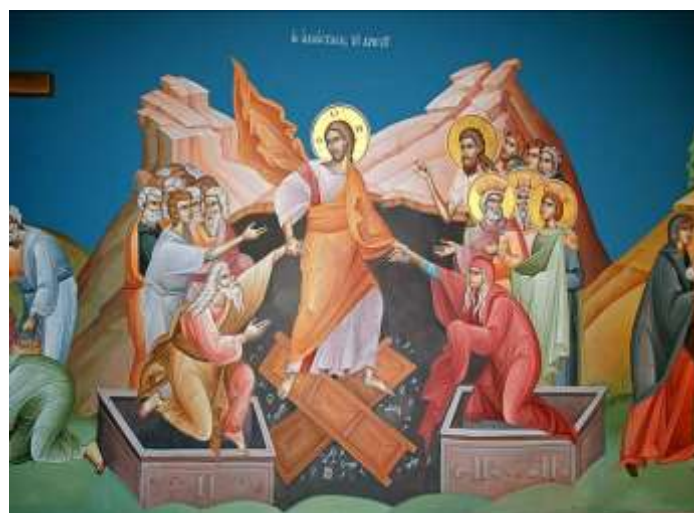
Chrismations:



Weddings:



Funerals:



40-Day Blessings:

May 6, 2018
Zoe Karen daughter of
Karina & Dr. Ben Onderdonk

May 20, 2018
Antoni son of
Veroniki & Anthony Ramirez

Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past weekend we celebrated Pentecost. This holy feast is especially moving to me as it and the following day (Monday of the Holy Spirit) were the patronal feast of my former parish of Holy Trinity in Sioux City, Iowa.

For this feast we celebrated the Holy Spirit, the third “person” of the Godhead and we commemorated the Holy Spirit’s power to “make the fishermen wise and through them illumine the whole world.” This is the “seal and the gift” of the Holy Spirit we receive through Chrismation, my brothers and sisters. This is what unites us all to the holy, catholic and apostolic Church, for it is the Spirit that moves the Church to Christ through us. While the Holy Spirit may push non-Orthodox towards good deeds and Christ, the Spirit moves *inside of us*. This fulfills the words of Christ in John Chapter 4:14 “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Thus, it is the Holy Spirit that has become the fruit of prayer and fasting that Jesus Christ mentions in Mark 9:29. Recall the story of the demon-possessed boy:

So He [Jesus Christ] asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

The fire and water are the chief tools used by the evil one to destroy us. **Fire** is our **passions**. Picture a candle with a flame out of control. It will melt the wax quickly and burn up everything. These passions are gluttony, sloth, wrath, greed, lust, envy, and the most deadly of all, pride. Any one of these can spiral out of control to destroy us. **Water** is the **cares of this world** that seek to drown us in worry, stress, and fear. These can only be cast out through prayer and fasting.

“Casting out” calls to mind emptying a glass of water. What do we then fill the glass with so that we will not be like the poor soul Jesus mentions in Matthew 12:43-45?

43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

Casting out the impure passions is not enough. We must fill the house (glass of water) with something else so that there is no room for the demons to return. We must fill it with the fruits of the Holy Spirit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness . . .” (Galatians 5:22) These fruits can only be acquired through prayer and fasting. It is no coincidence that St. Paul combats the seven deadly sins with these virtues. If we acquire these we will escape judgment, for “against such there is no law.”

If we fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit we will have that water welling up to eternal life. We will be filled with courage, power from on high, and divine knowledge. “Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit” (Mark 13:11); and “But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you” (John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit is, and has always been, the antithesis of the destructive **fire and water**. Rather, it is creative and life-giving **fire and water**. “By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night” (Exodus 13:21). It can be understood why, in the Holy Scriptures the Holy Spirit has appeared as **fire**:

1. The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2)
2. The Tower of Flame leading the Israelites (Exodus 13:21)
3. The Fire of Elijah (1 King 18:38)
4. The Tongues of Fire over the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 2:2)
5. The revealing Fire (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

And as **water**:

1. The Tower of Cloud leading the Israelites (Exodus 3:2)
2. As a water for the thirsty (Isaiah 44:3)
3. As a well unto eternal life (John 4:14)
4. As the Cloud on Mt. Tabor at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36)
5. As the Cloud carrying the Savior up at Ascension (Acts of the Apostles 1:9)

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

Let us fill the measure of our Baptism, for we were baptized in water and spirit. Let us acquire through prayers and fasting the sweet fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us be full of Him, that we can take on the attributes of holy fire so that we will not be burned in the Last Day, but be partakers in Divinity. Let us, like the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be united in love and concord. Let us be “one” even as they are one.

“God became man, so that man could become like God...” - St. Athanasios

I remain your servant in Christ,
Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Dimitri". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Parish Council Update

By Jayme Schenk

Hello St. Basil Parishioners,

I hope everyone is enjoying spring, along with some early summer weather. You may have noticed last month the Parish Council update was written by Nick Georgopoulos, assistant treasurer and council member. Moving forward, the council has decided that the update will alternate between me and other council members each month. We hope you will enjoy the updates from various members, and I thank each of them in advance.

We had our Spring Assembly on May 20, with a great number of stewards in attendance. Father presented his pastoral updates, there was discussion on stewardship, and a presentation of the treasurer's report. Thank you to all who attended. Our next Assembly will be in the fall, along with Parish Council elections. That said, it's not too early to think about joining the Parish Council, it's a two year term and the meetings are every month. If anyone has any questions or interest please see Father or myself.

Just a reminder that we are having our annual St. Basil Golf Outing at the at Odyssey Country Club (19110 S. Ridgeland Ave, Tinley Park IL) on Wednesday, July 11. We hope to see you there. Please contact the church office for details.

Finally, we would like to thank the Sianis Family for hosting our third annual Trivia Night at the Billy Goat Tavern on Madison.

Hope to see everyone in the pews this Sunday!

Jayme Schenk, Parish Council President

Philoptochos Update

By Vana Kikos

In our last meeting on Tuesday, May 15, we hosted a very informative presentation by the executive director of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, Mr. Dan Hula. They are building a new facility on the Old Town/ Lincoln Park border and he told us about their capital campaign. Philoptochos will be making contributions to support this shelter. Homelessness has seen a significant increase nationwide from 2016 to 2017 and we are proud to help in any way we can.

The Philoptochos monthly meetings will be on hiatus for the summer. The next scheduled Philoptochos meeting is Wednesday, September 12, at 7 p.m.

But just because our meetings are on hiatus, our important work continues...

The biennial combined National Clergy Laity /Philoptochos Conference will be held in Boston this year from July 1-5. Kathy Walstrom, our metropolis liaison, and I will be attending. If anyone else is interested in going, please contact Kathy or me.

We will be hosting and cooking breakfast at the Ronald McDonald house on the Saturdays of June 16 and July 28. Please see Stella Kapetan if you'd like to participate.

To all ladies of St. Basil and beyond, please join our chapter--see any member after church!

Faithfully, Vana, Philoptochos President

Stewardship Update

By Tom Bezanos

Our 2018 Stewardship Goal is 200 Stewards and \$200,000.

2018 Progress-to-Date:

- ◇ Stewards 110
- ◇ Pledged \$140,250
- ◇ Collected \$68,265

*We are looking to expand the St Basil Stewardship Committee.
Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining our team.*



HAVE YOU BECOME A STEWARD OF ST. BASIL CHURCH?

Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on “Our Parish” and “Stewardship” to learn more or contact church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

Girls Ministry

By Mary Peroulas

A big smile and a warm greeting by members of the Girls Ministry welcomed worshipers to St Basil one Sunday in May. The girls assisted the Parish Council in the narthex distributing bulletins, making change, and passing the collection baskets. Parishioners were delighted to receive their warm welcome as they entered the church. Thank you girls!

Our final event of the spring season will be Sunday, June 3 following Liturgy. We will partner with the Sunday School Ministry and celebrate the end of the school year with a pizza party. We hope all the children can join us! It will be lots of fun!



Someone You Should Know

Aris Kapsopoulos

For his 40th birthday, Aris Kapsopoulos went sky diving. He jumped out of an airplane that was traveling 120 miles per hour at 13,000 feet and went into a 90 second freefall before opening his parachute. In addition to skydiving, traveling a little closer to earth, he also goes zip-lining with family and friends. Despite these daring escapades, he considers himself “just a regular guy.” He enjoys watching movies, hiking, traveling, visiting with family in Florida, going to the gym, and running.

Aris’s parents owned a hot dog stand near Midway Airport and, like many Greek children, he helped out there after school. St. Basil was their home parish, and Aris was baptized here as a baby. He went to Greek school, where he studied under Mr. Tom Chiampas.

When he moved out to Carol Stream as an adult, Aris stopped attending St. Basil, but he returned here at the same time that Father Panteleimon came on board, about eight years ago, and he has been a regular at Sunday Liturgy ever since. After church, he visits his parents. He is a low-profile person, but he is the backbone of the parish’s electronic communications. He works behind the scenes to maintain our Facebook page and to prepare the weekly bulletin that is distributed at Sunday liturgy. He works with Themis Fabiatos to coordinate our parish’s participation in the annual Greek parade. He also participates in the parish’s feeding programs and prison ministry. A graduate of Loyola University, where he majored in finance, Aris has worked for Sears Corporation for 28 years. He is in operations and has hands-on involvement in the stores.

Aris’s Orthodox faith runs deep. He notes that we are the faith that’s closest to the time of Christ and that our liturgy involves all the senses. For him, the icons, the incense, the chanting, the antidoron all contribute to the richness of the liturgy.



St. Tryphon Garden Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

Volunteer this summer: The St. Tryphon garden ministry has trimmed down all the spring bulbs and mulched the garden, so our parish gardens are now ready for summer. Now we need volunteers to keep it beautiful. Volunteering involves disposing of any garbage that has blown into the garden, pulling weeds, and watering (by turning on the spout to soaking hoses that are already in place in the garden, and hand-watering anything that's out of their reach). We invite parishioners of all ages and gardening experience to serve in the garden – it's fun, rewarding, and no commitment is too small. Please contact Marina Arvanitis (marvanitis@uwalumni.com) to learn more and sign up.

New garden fencing: As you may remember, the ministry removed the metal fencing around the garden last year, as it was in terrible condition due to rust. Please contact Marina Arvanitis if you can help the ministry contract for a reasonably priced new (rust-proof) garden fence.



Prison Ministry

By Steve Cole

Prison Ministry Celebrates Mothers and Fathers

On May 6, prison ministry volunteers sent Mother's Day cards to caregivers of our Angel Tree families. Caregivers include wives, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and aunts who are holding their families together during the inmates' incarceration.

Please join us in the Philoptochos Hall on June 10 after Liturgy to send Father's Day greetings to some 35 inmates who have a relationship with our church. Enjoy coffee and fellowship while reaching out to those who need our love and compassion.



The prison ministry is still seeking parishioners to correspond regularly with inmates. A group of Orthodox prisoners in the Indiana prison system have asked us to reach out to them. If interested contact Pat Cole, 73-252-8254, patriciaastahl@comcast.net.

Saint John the Almsgiver Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

On Lazarus Saturday, the new St. John the Almsgiver Ministry packed over 30 “survival packs,” which our parish is providing to our neighbors in need. Each pack includes the items listed in the table below. To date, we have distributed a handful of packs to those who have come to our church doors for help. Also, both Father Dimitri and the Cole family have taken packs with them to distribute as the need arises. Please speak to Pat and Steve Cole about the rewarding experiences they’ve had distributing the packs so far.

If you or your family are interested in joining the St. John the Almsgiver Ministry efforts, you can do so by:

- ◇ Distributing survival packs: Please contact Marina Arvanitis (marvanitis@uwalumni.com) to receive three to five packs, then distribute the packs to those in need. We ask that you first focus on helping those who are closest to St. Basil, such as those near the 290 highway ramps, Ashland Avenue and Taylor Street, the CTA Pink and Blue line stations, etc.
- ◇ Donating for future packs: Dental students from UIC have recently donated toothbrushes and toothpaste, but we will always need more supplies. You can help by bringing any of the below items to the church office, or by giving a monetary donation to Vicky Crosby, who will mark them for the St. John the Almsgiver Ministry.
- ◇ Assisting with networking: We need help developing a list of local resources for the homeless to include in our survival packs and establishing relationships with other local churches and ministries.
- ◇ Attending future ministry meetings: We will begin holding regular meetings every one to two months immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please check the church bulletin for details, and bring your thoughts and ideas.

Survival Pack Items
Jewel gift card - \$10
CTA single-transit ticket
White t-shirt (large)
White tube socks
Toothbrush
Travel-sized toothpaste
Comb
Band-Aids
Hand wipes (‘Wet Ones’ pocket-size singles)
Granola bars
Bottle of water

Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

It's hard to believe that the 2017-2018 Sunday School year has come to an end. We had a great year. Parents please continue to come to Divine Liturgy. Below are some ideas and helpful websites to refer to over the summer months to continue your child's religious education.

<http://www.goreligiousedchicago.org/> - You will find current and past issues of "The Faith" (Orthodox Faith for Teens)

<https://www.goarch.org/> - is a wonderful resource filled with valuable information. Check it out!

<http://antiochian.org/christianeducation/letusattend> -you can find the weekly Gospel readings including modified lessons for appropriate age levels.

Praxis magazine- is a publication of the Department of Religious Education. The magazine addresses topics about religious education, spiritual formation, and practical applications of our faith. There is also a section within dedicated to family care.

Parents you can also take a family field trip to the St. John Chrysostomos Monastery in Wisconsin. Another idea would include reading the text "Blueprints For The Little Church-creating an Orthodox home" by the authors Caleb Shoemaker and Elissa Bjeletich. The text provides practical ideas and encouragement for incorporating the primary practices of Orthodox spirituality into your life. The text is a quick and motivational read.

Sunday School graduation will be held on June 3, 2018. The Girl's Ministry and The Sunday School have collaborated and organized an end-of-the-year celebration following the graduation. Class will resume for the 2018-2019 school year on September 9. There will be more information to come regarding open house and registration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students and teachers for all their hard work this school year. I would also like to thank Fr. Dimitri, Vicky Crosby, Nick Katsoulis, Christina Stavros, Tony Kidonakis and the Parish Council for all their support this year. Have a wonderful summer.

If you have any questions regarding the Sunday school program please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos- jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.

Coffee Hour Ministry

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host coffee hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to get to know one another better.

We are looking for volunteers to either host a coffee hour or participate in hosting one of our Pot Luck Luncheons with a team of other parishioners.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 312-243-3738.



Sunday, June 3	Coffee Hour: Rouches Family
Sunday, June 10	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos
Sunday, June 17	Coffee Hour: Chioros Family
Sunday, June 24	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 11, 2018

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church Golf Outing



Odyssey Country Club
19110 S Ridgeland Ave.
Tinley Park, IL

\$135 Includes:

18 Holes of Golf
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
Open Bar

\$60 Includes:

Dinner
Open Bar



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church is looking for individuals with marketing expertise/background!

Help our church expand and grow! We are looking for an individual who can help us market our church in the 21st century and help us advertise our events and ministries more effectively. Please see Fr. Dimitri or a member of the Parish Council if you are interested.



St. Basil's— May Potluck Luncheon

A special thank you to all the volunteers who made this happen!



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:00 pm Great Vespers for All Saints (at Joliet, IL)
3 Coffee Hour: Christina Rouches 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School meets- Sunday School Graduation Today 11:30 am Prison Ministry Father's Day card writing to inmates	4 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	5	6 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Ser- vice) to the Virgin Mary	7	8	9
10 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy	11	12	13 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Ser- vice) to the Virgin Mary	14	15	16 9:00 am Breakfast at Ronald McDonald House
17 8:15 am Coffee Hour: Eleni & John Chioros Father's Day Orthros and Divine Liturgy	18	19	20 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Ser- vice) to the Virgin Mary	21	22	23
24 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy	25	26	27 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Ser- vice) to the Virgin Mary	28 7:00 pm Great Vespers for Ss. Peter and Paul (at Glenview parish)	29 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Ss. Peter and Paul (at Ss. Peter & Paul, Glen- view, IL) 7:00 pm Great Vespers for Holy Apostles (at Westchester parish)	30 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

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JULY 11, 2018

**St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
Golf Outing**



Odyssey Country Club
19110 S Ridgeland Ave.
Tinley Park, IL

\$135 Includes:

18 Holes of Golf
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
Open Bar

\$60 Includes:

Dinner
Open Bar



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Chicago, IL 60607